

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9170

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: MRS. KIM TAE CHUNG DISCUSSES HUSBAND'S HEALTH AND
PROSPECTS

REF: SEOUL 9082 (DTG 150845Z NOV 76

1. POLCOUNS AND LABATT CALLED ON MRS. KIM TAE CHUNG
NOVEMBER 17. ALSO PRESENT DURING VISIT WERE DR. YIM SEONG-HI,
FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, AND DUP ASSEMBLYMAN
KIM NOK YEOUNG WHO HOLDS ASSEMBLY SEAT ONCE FILLED BY KIM TAE
CHUNG.

2. MRS. KIM WAS CALM AND COLLECTED BUT DETERMINED AS EVER
TO DO HER UTMOST TO SUPPORT HER HUSBAND'S CAUSE. SHE
DESCRIBED PAIN AND DISCOMFORT HER HUSBAND FACED IN PRISON
DUE TO HIS SCIATICA AND ARTHRITIS. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS
NOT IN CONTACT WITH ROKG OFFICIALS AS HER ATTEMPTS TO SEE
THEM TO PLEAD ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN REBUFFED.
SHE HAD SUBMITTED PETITIONS FOR HER HUSBAND'S RELEASE
ON BAIL OWING TO HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION (THE MOST RECENT
PETITION WAS MAILED ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO) BUT SHE HAD
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RECEIVED NO REPLY. MRS. KIM FELT THAT DESPITE HER EFFORTS

IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE ROKG WOULD RELEASE HER HUSBAND FROM PRISON ON BAIL AND EVEN LESS LIKELY THAT THE ROKG WOULD DISMISS OR REDUCE CHARGES AGAINST HIM OR SENTENCE HIM LENIENTLY.

3. MRS. KIM NOTED THAT ACCESS TO THE APPEALS TRIAL HAD BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE PROCEDURE WHICH HAD FINALLY BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE LOWER COURT TRIAL. NOW ADMISSION TICKETS WERE NOT TRANSFERRABLE, AND THEY COULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH A RECORD OF ALL WHO ENTERED THE COURT. SHE AND THE OTHER WIVES OF THE DEFENDANTS HAD EVEN MORE REASON THEREFORE TO CONTINUE THEIR BOYCOTT OF TRIAL.

4. ASSEMBLYMAN KIM NOK SEOUNG HAD ATTENDED OPENING SESSION OF APPEALS TRIAL ON NOVEMBER 13. HE THOUGHT IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE JUDGE ASKED KIM TAE CHUNG ABOUT HIS HEALTH. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME ANY JUDGE HAD MADE SUCH AN INQUIRY OF KIM TAE CHUNG DURING THE PROSECUTION OF THE CURRENT INDICTMENT. (COMMENT: THE ROKG MAY HAVE WISHED TO ESTABLISH A RECORD OF ITS CONCERN FOR KIM'S HEALTH IN VIEW OF EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND FROM OTHER SOURCES. END COMMENT) ASSEMBLYMAN KIM ALSO NOTED THAT WHEN APPEAL SESSION ENDED BAILIFFS DID NOT HUSTLE KIM TAE CHUNG OFF AS USUAL BUT ALLOWED HIM TO GREET AND SHAKE HANDS WITH FRIENDS WHO HAD ATTENDED THE SESSION.

5. MRS. KIM EXPRESSED HER GRATITUDE FOR THE VISIT, AND THIS SENTIMENT WAS ECHOED BY DR. YIM AND ASSEMBLYMAN KIM.
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